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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FOI0001-0578

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: February 7, 1951.

SUBJECT: International Science Program for Germany

PARTICIPANTS: GER - Mr. Lewis
 GEP - Mr. Spencer
 S/IE - Dr. Koepfli
 G/SA - Mr. Rudolph

COPIES TO:

Mr. R. G. G. G.
 Col. Christensen
 Dr. Koepfli
 HICOG

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY *Zook*

DATE 3/18/81

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Dr. Koepfli explained that he had only recently been given responsibility for international science in the Department and that he was devoting most of his attention at the present time to becoming oriented. He stated that plans for establishing a science office in the U.S. Embassy, London, have been almost completed but that nothing has been done so far toward developing a similar office or staff in Germany. He wished to learn what was being done by HICOG in this field.

Dr. Koepfli was informed that Dr. Nordstrom, Chief, Scientific Research Division, Military Security Board, has been promoting the exchange of scientific information and scientists between the United States and Germany and that he has developed what seems to be rather productive relationships between his office and prominent German scientists and German scientific laboratories. Dr. Koepfli was told that Dr. Nordstrom believes he requires close relationships with German scientists to keep abreast of their activities and thereby determine whether Allied security controls administered by the Military Security Board are being violated. The Army's "Operation Paper Clip" also was briefly explained to Dr. Koepfli and he was informed of the distinction between the Karl Weber operation in Germany and the Nordstrom operation, namely, that the former is endeavoring to collect information regarding Soviet science available in Germany, largely by interrogating persons recently moving into the West from the East, whereas Dr. Nordstrom is engaged in collecting information regarding German science.

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Dr. Koepfli stated that he would be available for rendering any service of possible use to GER on scientific matters. He felt strongly that it was essential to attempt to win German scientists over to the West, since science had been Germany's primary field of excellence in the past and presumably would continue to be in the future. Moreover, German scientists command a respect and influence among their fellow Germans that has no parallel in the U.S. and possibly other countries. He suggested that the Department might ask prominent U.S. scientists to indicate effective techniques for directing German scientific research into constructive channels and winning it over to the West.

It was generally agreed that during the next few months Dr. Koepfli might profitably acquaint himself with the functions Dr. Nordstrom is presently carrying out, that he might evaluate the results Dr. Nordstrom has achieved at establishing close relationships with German scientists and that he might consider what additional effort could be made in Germany to promote the objectives of the Department's International Science Office. It was also agreed that some thought should be given to the question of where responsibility for international science should be fixed in the new embassy establishment expected to replace HICOG some time this year.

The meeting ended with the understanding that Dr. Koepfli would continue to inform himself of the activities of Dr. Nordstrom by conversations with Colonel Ellis (Army), CIA and Mr. Kennedy's office, and that he would feel free to advise GER at any time regarding scientific matters and to call upon GER for any information or assistance he might need.

GER:GASpencer:fm

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